

Phase 4 - Watershed Plan Implementation Committee

Notes from August 13 meeting with:

Tom Myrum, WA Water Resources Association

John Kounts – WA Public Utility Districts

Paul Parker – WA Assoc. of Counties

Harold Schlomann – WA Sewer and Water Districts

Dave Catterson (for Dave Williams) - Assoc. WA Cities

Fran Wilshusen (follow-up call) - Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission

Scope of Committee's work: Review policy, administrative, and long-term funding options for the implementation of watershed plans developed under 90.82 RCW. Survey watershed planning units and lead agencies to determine implementation needs anticipated from upcoming watershed plans. Review existing funding sources at local, state and federal levels and determine if new funding mechanisms are necessary. Include ESA funding mechanisms in review. Ensure that effort is coordinated with Governor's Phase 2 Water strategy. Report findings and recommendations to the state legislature for its consideration in the 2003 session. Provide interim report to the legislature in 2002.

Committee Makeup: Comprised of elected officials and other leaders engaged in watershed planning at the Initiating Government and Tribal level. Members chosen based on their commitment to watershed planning and proactive participation in making things happen. Committee membership augmented with environmental, irrigation, ag. producers, state and federal agencies. Legislators will also be invited. Ecology is on the committee, but does not chair. Chair (or Co-Chairs) to be established once list of members is determined. Governor to invite. Balance of interests and balance of geography (East/West) included.

Staffing the Effort: A consultant will be hired to develop the findings and recommendations for watershed plan implementation. Ecology will manage the consultant's contract, as well as provide support for meeting scheduling, logistics, and related activities. \$100K is available, to include consultant costs and agency logistics and support materials.

Next Steps: 1) Ecology will contact our Watershed Leads to determine who at Initiating Government/Tribal level are active, positive supporters of watershed planning, as well as other planning unit members who could enhance the committee. 2) Ecology will draft scope of work and RFP for the consultant services. 3) Route draft member list and scope of work to partners for their review and comments. 4) Select consultant and choose members based on partner comments. 5) Bring consultant on board in October. 6) Governor to invite Committee members to serve following selection of consultant and logistics of first meeting.